Price Twopence 3s. per annum post free

The Non-Subscribing Presbyterian

No. 294. MARCH, 1931.

PEACE—LOVE—HARMONY.

"Except the Lord build the house, they labour in vain who build it."—Ps. cxxvii., 1.

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NOTES AND NEWS.

"The days of visitation are come; the prophet is a fool, the spiritual man is mad." So wrote the Prophet Hosea. The words of scorn clamour loud, amid excitement and unrest, and even invade the sanctuary designed to be a place of peace. Presumptuous hands are laid on holy things. The minister must become the servant of "many masters," instead of the faithful servant of One. Reverence is out-of-date, and that which is beyond "money and price" is reckoned a commodity to be paid for with the humblest coin. "Thy money perish with thee, in that thou hast thought the gift of God to be purchased with gold and silver," exclaimed the Apostle. An influence is abroad vaunting itself as "liberal," the spirit of arrogance and conceit, described as "a beast rising out of the earth, who talks like a dragon" (Rev. xiii., ii.) "causing the earth and all its inhabitants to worship the first beast"—the lust-tainted lower mind.

* * *

Across the water, are congregations refined, cultured, as reverent and as loyal as may be. There are others where there is an entirely different atmosphere, where the minister is "the paid servant," and has a minimum say in his church affairs. His sermons are reckoned as costing so much a Sunday. His committee may even suggest that he shall report his visitations to them, and the success of a service is judged by the collection. These are marks of corruption and disease, which we trust will never get a hold here in Ireland; and cannot do so if we keep loyal to the heritage into which many of us have been born. Our Church has its roots in the spiritual world. It has its own unique character. This Magazine, at great self-sacrifice and devotion, was initiated to support the organisation of the Church. It has rendered good service. It has great difficulties to contend with, but every loyal Non-Subscribing Presbyterian is bound to support it. There are, perhaps, magazines of great merit in their own way in circulation among us such, as for instance, "The Christian Herald" or "The Unitarian and Free Christian," but charity and other good things begin at home, as loyalty does, and every one of our members belongs to the Non-Subscribing Church, and consequently this Magazine has a prior claim. There is the criticism that is destructive, and there is that which is appreciative, and which encourages and builds up. "Ingratitude is not one of our vices," it is to be hoped. "Pay that which thou hast vowed." It will canker all the rest if you don't. The subsidy is wanted, let it be continued and increased, and let enthusiasm be kindled, and the Church will grow up into a building fitly framed together growing unto a Spiritual House, built upon the foundation of the Apostles and Prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief corner-stone.

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Brief historical accounts of Meeting Houses, accompanied with pictures, are invited.

* * *

You younger members, what are you doing in your congregation to get a sale for this Magazine? Hallelujah lassies, make the "War Cry" go like wildfire.

MONTGOMERY MEMORIAL.

The Committee in charge of the "Dr. Henry Montgomery Memorial" is sending out a circular appealing for subscriptions to the Fund. Congregations are invited to co-operate in having special services and collections, with perhaps an exchange of pulpits to add interest. (This literally would be an interesting experiment, but it only means ministers, the "lights," and not the candlesticks). The form of the Memorial is to be a bed or beds in either the Royal Victoria Hospital itself or in the Children's Hospital, which is part of the Institution. The universal trade depression does not make the present the most favourable of times for such an appeal, but we have no fear but that the response will do credit to the Church.

* * *

Scottish and Ulster Masonic Lodges in January toast the Immortal Memory of Robert Burns. The family was not of Ayrshire, but belonged to Stonehaven in Kincardine. The burying-place of Burns' ancestors was in the churchyard of Glenbervie. The name had various spellings—Bernis, Burnhouse, Burness, Burnas, Burns. Burns, theologically, was a Unitarian, influenced by J. J. Taylor, of Norwich, and a staunch Mason. In his "Farewell" to St. James's Lodge he wrote—

"May freedom, harmony and love,
Unite you in the grand design,
Beneath th' Omniscient Eye above—
The glorious Architect Divine.."

* * *

Many had the great pleasure of meeting the Rev. Rosalind Lee, who is doing a priceless work for the Unitarian and Free Christian Churches. In a community which places teaching first, and makes preaching supreme in the Church, the sacramental side of the Church's life takes a subsidiary place, and thus there cannot be the same objection to women in the ministry as in the ancient Episcopal Churches, where the Sacraments are more pre-eminent. The ordinary clerical answer is: "We have no such custom, neither the Churches of God," fortified perhaps by the reminder that the twelve apostles and seventy preachers were chosen exclusively from men." Some go as far as to say that the feminine organism is not adapted for radiating the type of force coming through the Eucharist. There are types of spiritual work and cults which belong exclusively to women, and woman has the greatest of priesthoods, that of "motherhood," either for her own or other children. However, among Unitarians the door to the ministry has been opened to women, as it has long been among the Quakers. There are now branches of Masonry where women are admitted to all offices and degrees, which to the orthodox Mason is anathema, and as Masonry is parallel to the Church as a channel of spiritual power, woman has there the dignity of a "priestess."

* * *

THE UNITARIAN CHURCH.

Woman Minister and Difficulties In Transylvania.

The difficulties under which members of the Unitarian Church are living in Transylvania were described by Rev. Rosalind Lee, M.A., who spoke at a meeting of the Ulster Branch of the British League of Unitarian and Other Liberal Christian Women in the Central Hall, Rosemary Street, Belfast on 24/1/'31.

The title of her address was "Some Unitarian Churches in Central Europe." Miss Lee pointed out that latterly the religious liberal movement in Europe had been amongst scholars in the universities, and it had led more to intellectual expressions without the growth of congregations as they had in this country. But there were some exceptions, and two in particular — Czecho-Slovakia and Transylvania.

"Some people are inclined to say that our day and our work are done," said Miss Lee; "but Czecho-Slovakia is a country where our message has found a ready response, and we cannot tell how far it is going." It was a happy place, but Transylvania was one of the unhappiest. It was impossible to speak of the conditions and the Unitarian Churches there without recognising the fact that politically their Churches were feeling "exceedingly 'sore' at being under the heel of Roumanians." The

people felt very much that they were a conquered race, and the atmosphere, she thought, had transmitted itself to the children.

Their religion was, she predicted, going to be tested in the coming years, and the problem arose as to how their League could help them. Was their religion going to be used as a tool to keep them together politically as Hungarians, or was it going to create a deeper feeling which would overcome the racial bitterness that at present existed between them and the Roumanians. The latter, in her view, would be the greatest triumph of their religion.

Rev. Nicol Cross, M.A., who presided, referred to the admission of women to the ministry of the Unitarian Church. That had always been their theory, and it had been substantiated all down through the Christian Churches, though the older communions had not permitted women to be ordained.

A vote of thanks was passed to Miss Lee on the motion of Mrs. Glynne Davies (Comber) seconded by Mrs. J. H. Ewbank (Mountpottinger).

Eighty women attended a service in Rosemary Street Church in the afternoon, and afterwards were addressed by Miss Lee, who spoke on "Women's work in the Churches." She was thanked by Mrs. Shaw Brown (Clough) and Mrs. Slipper (Newry). A solo was sung by Miss Eileen Ervine.

* * *

A good many of our members in Co. Down have lived over in the Whitehaven district of Cumberland or have friends there, and they must have been deeply affected at the news of the terrible colliery disaster at the end of January. Over there is a strong North of Ireland community, well-known and trusted for honesty and straight dealing.

* * *

The Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Church, as such, is not responsible for any opinion or declaration in this Magazine, by whomsoever expressed, unless contained in an official document. Writers of published articles are alone responsible for opinions therein expressed. The Editor, while desirous of allowing opportunity for full and varied contributions, must point out that space is very limited. This Magazine is not a commercial venture, though it is desired that it shall become self-supporting; but as it is designed to serve the N.S.P. Church, even though it is comparatively small both in size and circulation, still it is the Church's own Magazine, and claims the right of loyal and generous support.

* * *

"Wireless" on Sunday evenings brings to us church services of various types. St. Cuthbert's, Edinburgh, is always a favourite. It is the original Church of Edinburgh, founded by St. Cuthbert. Its dignified service, contrasted with that of old days, when the preacher hung his "high hat" on a peg at the side of the pulpit, with a "pine-apple" on the top of the canopy, shows the advance that is being made in Presbyterian ism. Now there is a surpliced choir, and a service approaching that of the Episcopal Church. Presbyterianism has Cathedrals in Scotland. The military service in St. Giles', Edinburgh, shows what Presbyterianism at its best can be, the clergy preceded by the verger carrying his silver-headed wand of office, the tall Highland officers, their swords clanking on the stone floor as they proceed up the aisle, the rich stained glass windows, the thrones in the Royal pew, the tombs of Argyll and Montrose, the statue of John Knox. Do we, as Presbyterians, prize the heritage that is ours, and realise that part of our mission is to liberalise Presbyterianism? Scotland is close at hand; Glasgow, the second largest city in Britain, and Edinburgh, the most beautiful in Europe, are well worth visiting.

CONVERSATIONAL PREACHING.

"The Witness" is a well-known Presbyterian weekly newspaper published in Belfast, and the sight of it should make Non-Subscribers ambitious for their Magazine. Once the fire of enthusiasm is thoroughly kindled our "little one may become a thousand." That "Non-Subscription" is working like leaven may be gathered from a Conversational Sermon preached at Elmwood Church. Preacher, Rev. Robert Hyndman, B.A. (Convenor of General

Assembly's Sabbath School Committee), Interlocutor, Rev. D. Frazer-Hurst, M.A. Here is an extract or two taken at random:—Interlocutor: "I have in my hand a copy, carefully preserved, of the very catechism which I had as a boy. It was set forth as a simple statement of the Assembly's Catechism. 'My little children, O think, seriously think. . . . . In Adam you all have sinned. Ye are of your father, the devil, and the lusts of your father ye do. . . . God is angry with that every day . . . . Damned angels in cruel derision stand ready to ask thee, 'Are thou also become like one of us?' Oh, how will the heart endure the tremendous blast of the Archangel's trumpet? This catechism is not obsolete; it is still on sale."

Preacher: In spite of the fact that you have quoted from a catechism. . . . it is important to recognise that these ideas belong to the mentality and outlook of bygone ages—that of nearly all the preachers of a century or two ago. . . . There can be no objection to learning the right kind of catechism . . . of God, of His love, of His Fatherhood as Christ taught. . . . The question of the Shorter Catechism lies in its clear analysis of great themes. . . Each new age has its vision.

Interlocutor: "If you imply that the Catechism from which I have quoted reads into the Shorter Catechism, ideas that are not there, I cannot agree with you. . . It is based on ideas of Scripture, no longer held by educated persons, namely, that it is from cover to cover the direct infallible expression of the mind of God. . . Dr. Farrar said that Gregory the Great was the first to employ this phrase. . . The supreme task of modern education is to make clear to the young people of our Church what is the true message of the Bible."

Preacher: "Anything in old-time Scriptures that is contrary to the mind and spirit of Christ, we cannot accept as binding on us."

All this is very interesting, and we congratulate the two gentlemen on their breadth of mind. But both are Subscribing Presbyterians, and their arguments are those of a dialogue to be recited, and neither of them say too much. Let the Preacher be a Subscriber, and the Interlocutor a Non-Subscriber, then there will be a chance of presenting both sides of the question. With all due deference, the fear of Hell is still in the background of the official teaching of the Presbyterian Church, and the standards of faith still remain, as anyone can ascertain who attends an ordination service; otherwise "Subscriber" and "Non-Subscriber" would be meaningless."

ULLIN.

HEALING BY THE CHURCH.

The newspapers have reported that in the Convocation of Canterbury, a discussion on spiritual healing arose, because of a motion by Prebendary Harris, that a special form of healing service with the laying on of hands and the anointment of a patient with consecrated oil be adopted. In this matter the Church of England will be coming into line with the Greek Church by adopting this service, which is really the Sacrament of Unction. The Roman Church now uses it only as a service for the dying, but at one time it was in universal use for healing until the priests began making extortionate charges for its administration, with the result that it was postponed until the end and became "extreme unction." In the Greek Church, however, especially among the peasantry, faith in its efficacy has never been lost. A Bulgarian officer having been ordained, giving the unction as a matter of course to the sick, was rather surprised at the results, and began to record them, coming to the conclusion that the power was not his own personally, but belonged to the Church, which he, as the Church's official, exercised. A method considered helpful is for a number of people to form themselves into a healing group, and to unite in meditation such as picturing a star over a chalice, the light from the star to the chalice representing the healing power, and the chalice representing the group, and then to read out the name of a patient, for whom the group offers silent prayer. This is a simple method which might be tried among us.

ULLIN.

OBITUARIES.

Mr. John Robinson, Glenarm.

With deep regret we record the death of Mr. Robinson, which took place suddenly at his residence, Altmore Street, Glenarm, at 1.15 a.m. on Monday, 2nd February, 1931. Mr. Robinson, who had been out of doors on the previous Saturday, only complained of feeling unwell on that evening, and his death came as a great shock to his wife and family and the other relatives, who mourn the loss of a good husband, a kind father, and a brother ever ready to give a helping hand. A man of splendid physique, few people thought that his illness would have a fatal termination. He was a man of quiet, unassuming disposition, attentive to whatever work his hands found to do. The loss to our Church is indeed great. For over 22 years Mr. Robinson faithfully discharged the duties of hon. secretary to the Glenarm congregation, in whose welfare he was at all times deeply interested. Accompanied by the other members of his household, he set a worthy example to the other members of the congregation by his regular attendance at public worship. Mr. Robinson was held in wide esteem by a wide circle of friends and acquaintances. This was evidenced by the large concourse of people who followed his remains to their last resting place in the Old Meeting House Green on Tuesday afternoon, 3rd February, 1931. His minister, Rev. J. A. Miskimmin, B.A., conducted a short service in the house, in the Meeting House, where his favourite hymn was sung, "My God and Father, While I Stray. . . Thy Will Be Done!" and also at the graveside. Mrs. R. N. Green kindly presided at the organ, and at the close of the service played "The Dead March in Saul." We tender sincere sympathy to the relatives in their bereavement. J. A. M.

MR. James Dickson, Downpatrick.

The Downpatrick congregation has sustained a severe loss in the passing of Mr. James Dickson, brother of Mr. Hugh Dickson, J.P., the esteemed hon. treasurer of the Meeting House. The local paper has the following reference —"We much regret the death in the prime of life of a good citizen and capable business man, Mr. James Dickson, cabinet-maker, and sincere sympathy is felt with the members of the family so suddenly bereaved. In manner, Mr. Dickson was quiet and unobtrusive, but intimate friends fully recognised his quick intelligence, his sense of humour, the uprightness and generosity of his nature. Of such men there cannot be too many." The Rev. John Begg, of Larne, conducted the services at the house, in the Church, and at the graveside. The funeral was attended by over 400 of all classes and creeds in the town. Mr. Begg gave a very impressive address, referring to the deceased's deep love for his Old Meeting House, of which he was a hearty and generous supporter of everything connected therewith, and of his kindly and endearing disposition, carrying out so unobtrusively the life of the Christian disciple in the daily round. We know we have lost one of our best members, and we sincerely sympathise with the widow and children. Mr. James Dickson was a staunch supporter of this Magazine—"The Non-Subscribing Presbyterian"—since its commencement, as is also his mother and brother, the esteemed hon. treasurer. E. J.

THE REV. C. J. STREET.

As we go to Press, news reaches us of the death of the Rev. C. J. Street. A fuller notice will appear in the next issue. Mr. Street, after a meeting at Essex Hall, London, was taken ill, and succumbed to a heart attack on Wednesday, February 11th.

SCHOLARSHIPS.

THE Governors of Channing House School offer FIVE Entrance Foundation Scholarships of 20 guineas a year each (thus reducing the School Fees to 100 guineas a year), and FIVE Entrance Foundation Bursaries of 15 guineas a year each, to be held at Channing House School for girls between the ages of 9 and 14 years on 1st May next. Examination will be held in March. Attention will be paid to all-round qualifications. Successful candidates will take up residence in May, or, by special arrangement in September. For particulars apply to the Head Mistress, Channing House School, Highgate, London N. 6.

GREYABBEY.

(By the Moderator).

The Moderator visited Greyabbey on Sunday evening, February 1st. He was impressed with the air of efficiency and of good order in congregation and Meeting-House. The latter has had in recent renovations considerable work bestowed upon it, the outside being "casted" with large pebbles—the same with the Manse. Greyabbey is fortunate in having a fine organ, and a very competent organist in Mrs. Tilson. There was a large, well-trained choir, which holds a first-class record for punctuality and good attendance. The singing went with a swing and was very inspiring. The pastor (the Rev. W. T. Tilson, M.A.) exerts a powerful influence for good from Greyabbey up to the Newtownards district, where he has pastoral charge of the congregation there, his work being faciliated by his motor car, which he uses to good purpose. The late General Montgomery referred to Mr. Tilson as being a great acquisition to the neighbourhood, as indeed he has been to the Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Church. Many of the congregation come a long distance, and have a deeply rooted interest in their Church.

WOMEN'S LEAGUE.

Meetings of our Branch were resumed on January 14th after Xmas.

On February 4th our members had the pleasure of listening to a most interesting talk by Mrs. Gardiner, of Holywood, who gave an eloquent description of her visit to a Rhodesian farm, and a vivid and humorous account of the life there, including the method of cultivating the various crops, the habits of the native servants, etc.

We have also had a demonstration of fancy work by Miss Armstrong, and a sewing machine has been procured for the use of the Branch through the efforts of Mrs. Cross.

REV. A. AGNEW'S VISIT TO AMERICA.

The Rev. Arthur Agnew is to preach the Anniversary Sermon of the American Unitarian Association. The previous British preachers have been Dr. L. P. Jacks and the Rev. J. H. Weatherall, M.A. Mr. Agnew is the first minister of the N.S. Presbyterian Church to have the honour. We trust that this visit will form a link between America and our Church, and lead to further interchange between ministers and congregations of Ireland and America in the future. Please note that the anniversary sermon is not that of a congregation, as stated in February number, but that of the A.U.A.

MODERATOR.

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THE LEAGUE OF YOUTH.

The Rev. P. Godding, organiser of the League of Youth, has sent an article, which we summarise for want of space, and hope in the next issue to give his appeal more fully. Membership cards give as the "Aim": "To encourage the Spirit of Youth." Subscripion 2/6 a year. A general meeting, with an excellent tea, was held at Stanhope Street Mission, when an address was given by Mr. W. M'Cartney on "My Idea of the League of Youth." A social evening and dance will be held in the Mountpottinger Unitarian Hall, on Thursday, March 19th, at 7.30 prompt. All members of League are welcome, and visiting friends 1/- each. The Treasurer would like to know, before Monday 16th, how many to provide for. Would those intending to be present please notify, and would ministers kindly announce from their pulpits. Twelve Churches are represented on the League, and an appeal is made to the others. The Executive consists of:—Chairman, Mrs. M'Fadden, 2 Wandsworth Parade, Belfast; Treasurer, Miss E .E. Ervine, 11 Knock Road, Belfast; Secretary, P. Godding, The Manse, Banbridge.

"Our Competition."—Rev. P. Godding is giving a book prize for the most suggestive and helpful essay on "My Idea of a League of Youth." Marks will be given solely for the most helpful ideas. The Secretary will receive the papers, but the examiner will not know the writers. Name and address to be on another sheet of paper, to be sent in before April 1st. Branches will please appoint local secretaries. Names of these to be sent to Miss Ervine. Subscriptions invited.

REPORTS.

All Souls', Belfast. — The Calendar for February is as artistic and interesting as ever, and by the time this appears in print its programme will have been carried out. The Badminton Club Whist Drive, on Tuesday, 24th, which has been growing in popularity, will have had a record attendance no doubt. A one-act play is announced for Friday, 6th, by the Dramatic Society, which is to be supplemented by a children's play produced by Miss Eileen Millar, whom we congratulate on her skill and ability in such good work. A number of apposite quotations gleaned from many anicent sources are headed: "The Unknown God." An Egyptian hymn has the words: "He Cannot Be Sculptured in Stone." Thank goodness! That's one Epstein horror from which we will be saved.—Ed.

Cairncastle.—The annual meeting of the congregation was held on Thursday evening, 11th January. After tea had been served by the ladies of the congregation the Minister took the chair, but before the routine business was commenced members expressed their deep sorrow and sense of great loss in the tragic death of their late Minister, bore testimony of their appreciation of his long and faithful ministry, and acknowledged the debt the congregation owed to Mr. and Mrs. Thompson for their devoted services. The Secretary's report and statement of accounts were then presented. The accounts showed a balance due Treasurer owing to the unexpected demands on the funds, but over against this financial deficit it was reported that eight new names had been added to the membership roll. The Committee was re-elected, with the addition of two lady members. Mr. Robert Snoddy, who had borne the burden of secretarial and treasurer's duties, was relieved of half of the responsibilities by the election of Mr. Robert Crawford, jun., as secretary. The chief business of the evening was how to meet the heavy expense of renovating the Manse. Finally it was decided to hold a bazaar in the summer of 1932. Votes of thanks to office bearers, organist and choir brought the business part of the meeting to an end, when a musical programme arranged by Miss Crawford was gone through. At the end the Minister expressed thanks to tea-makers, Miss Crawford, and Mr. John MacNeill for his kindness in lending his piano on this and other occasions. Other items of interest in the congregation's life were the welcome meeting of Mrs. Munn, presentation of book prizes to Sunday School scholars, a concert in the Lecture Hall given by a local Dramatic Society in aid of our Church funds.

Belfast Domestic Mission.—The annual sermons will be preached on Sunday, March 8th, by the Rev. T. M. Falconer, B.Litt, of Bank at Chapel, Bolton, in the morning at First Presbyterian Church, Rosemary Street, and in the evening at All Saints' Church, Elmwood Avenue. Mr. Falconer was educated at Durham University and Manchester College, Oxford, and obtained his degree at Durham in 1903. A man of outstanding ability and a preacher of note, his visit should attract a good deal of attention. The annual meeting of the Mission Subscribers will be held on Monday, March 9th, at 8 p.m., in the Central Hall, and a large attendance is desired.

Mountpottinger. — The annual tea-party and prize-giving in connection with the Sunday School took place on Friday, February 13th. After doing justice to their tea, the scholars played a variety of games, in which they had the leadership of Miss K. Forrest and Mr. L. Watters. Subsequently Mr. A. Forrest entertained the company to a pleasing selection of lantern slides, many of which he himself had made. The book prizes for good attendance during 1930 were afterwards distributed by Mr. E. R. Jackson, the afternoon Superintendent of the School, Rev. J. H. Ewbank, B.A., B.L., being in the chair. The proceedings terminated with the National Anthem.

The Treasurer begs to acknowledge, with thanks, the receipt of donations on behalf of the Subsidy Fund:

From Miss Herron, Comber	14	0
,, Miss Ellie Dunn, Rademon	2	0

Ballyclare. — The annual business meeting of the congregation was held in the Church on Wednesday evening, February 4th. A report of the Church's work during the year was followed by the Treasurer's financial statement. This revealed a satisfactory balance in hand after meeting some heavy items of expenditure incurred in connection with alterations and addition to the Manse property. The office-bearers and committee for the year were re-elected. After the business meeting members adjourned to the Schoolroom for tea, which was dispensed by the ladies. There was a good attendance of members and friends to hear the musical programme which followed. This opened with the "Rose of Tralee" sung as a chorus by the choir. The choir also sang "Clara Nolan's Ball." At intervals three sketches were submitted —"The New Portia," "Not Lost," and "The Ministering Angel"—which were excellently performed and enthusiastically received. The artistes taking part were the Misses M. Hogarth, Montgomery and Service, and Messrs. Wm. Forsythe, jun., and Wm. Harson. The soloists for the evening were Mr. John Harson, Mr. Wm. Forsythe, jun., and Mrs. Moore, who sang, respectively and most acceptably, "Captain Mack," "Shipmates O' Mine," and "Mate O' Mine." Mrs. Moore acted as accompanist.

Holywood. — Two very successful meetings were held in February in connection with the local branch of the Women's League. At the ordinary monthly meeting on February 9th, Miss Mary Gardiner, B.A., gave a very interesting talk on "A Tour Through Germany in a Small Car." There was a record attendance of members, who were delighted with Miss Gardiner's vivid, instructive and humorous account of her travel experiences. On February 17th the women organised an open meeting to hear Rev. R. Nicol Cross, M.A., lecture on the Passion Play of Oberammergau, illustrated with beautiful lantern pictures. There was a crowded attendance, including members of other Churches in the town, who listened with rapt attention to the lecturer's account of his visit last year to this celebrated representation of the closing scenes of the life of Jesus, and by word and picture the audience were deeply moved by the old story of the greatest of human tragedies. The chair was taken by Miss S. R. Praeger, who, at the close, proposed a vote of thanks to Mr. Cross and to Mr. Hill, of Bangor, who operated the lantern. The vote was seconded by Rev. E. Lockett, and carried with enthusiasm. A collection was made for the Holywood Nursing Society.

Moneyrea. — Two excellent performances of the comedies "Turncoats," by Lynn Doyle, and "The Guileless Saxon" by Judge Walsh, were given by the Dramatic Society in the Lyttle Memorial School, on Friday and Saturday evenings, January 23rd and 24th. In spite of very stormy weather on the first night the school was nearly full. On the second night the building was overcrowded, and people had to be turned away. "Turncoats" is a Co. Down comedy, written by a County Down man well-known to some of our people. The plot in its development and climax presents an amusing predicament, which was brilliantly characterised by the following members: — Samuel Maxwell, Simon Savage, farmer and widower; James Maxwell, Matthew, his son; Miss M. Bryce, Mrs. Ross, a widow; Miss B. Kennedy, Minnie Ross, her daughter. "The Guileless Saxon," written by Judge Walsh, of Letterkenny, is a comedy of skits on some of our social institutions. It is amusing and clever, but not an easy play. The players overcame every difficulty, and their performance was a decided success. The players were:— Thomas M'Auley, Charles Mulgrew, hotel keeper; Frank Maxwell, Peter M'Ginty, his friend; Edward Fisher, Billy Corscadden, the sweep; Sydney Bryce, Adolphus Runciman, the Englishman; Albert Fisher, Sergeant Daly; Robert Fisher, Sandy Walsh, Mulgrew's jarvey; Miss B. Kennedy, Marguerite Spenlow, Runciman's fiancee; Miss M. Hogg, Peggy, servant of Mulgrew. Both plays were fully enjoyed by the audience, and the players received high praise for their splendid acting and clear enunciation.

THE ORPHAN SOCIETY.

The annual collections of subscriptions to the Orphan Society are at present being taken up, and we are requested to say that the hon. treasurer, Mr. William M'Robert, the Ulster Bank, Waring Street, Belfast, is greatly gratified when all the subscriptions are in his hands by the 20th of the present month (March). The assistant secretary, Rev. A. Turner, also declares himself to be greatly helped when the lists of contributors are in his hands by the same date. He thanks all the local Secretaries and Treasurers for their valuable assistance in compiling the annual statistics, especially those who arrange their lists in alphabetical order for the printer.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

Questions and answers are invited. Answers ought to be as brief as possible, adapted to limited space.

1—What are deacons, as distinguished from elders ?
2—What is the Session, and how does the Committee stand in relationship to it?
3—In what way is the Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Church related to the Kirk of Scotland?
4—What is the meaning of "lesson" as applied to reading of Scripture in a Service?
5—What were the Covenanters?
6—What is textual criticism?

IRISH.

As an Irish Magazine, we ought to have a bit of Irish in it.

Ni feidir do chumann, marchumman, gluaiseacht ar aghaidh fa 'n bhfirinna. Is do'n nath-dhuine (an duine ar leithleigh) is dual toiraigheacht agus aimsughadh na firinne, mar ni folair a leanamhaint go h-aonardha agus go inmheadhonach. Ni foills nightear iomlan na firinne, no iol-chumachta a anma fein do'n te atu fuinte isteach i goumann

("A sect as a body cannot approach truth, because truth is an individual realisation, an inward, individual effort. By clinging to a body you cannot arrive at the full realisation of being." —Kishnamurti.)

MARRIAGE.

JOHNSTON — MILLAR — At Ballyhemlin Meeting House, on Friday, February 6th, 1931, Robert Johnston, of Ballyhackamore, Belfast, to Kathleen Millar, of Ballyhalbert.

DEATHS.

GORDON — February 21st, 1931, Rev. Alexander Gordon, M.A., late Principal of the Unitarian College, Manchester, and formerly minister of First Presbyterian Church, Belfast. Interred at Dunmurry.

ROBINSON — At his residence, Altmore Street, Glenarm, on February 2nd, 1931, John Robinson, the beloved husband of Ellen Robinson. Interred in the Old Presbyterian (Unitarian) Meeting House Green on February 3rd.

DICKSON—February 3, 1931, at his residence, Scotch Street, Downpatrick, James Dickson, Cabinet-maker. Interred in Stream Street Burying-Ground, 6th inst.

IN MEMORIAM.

BARRON—On February 13th, 1925,, at Ballyhemlin Manse, Douglas. Passed away aged 22 years.

—:o:—

N.B. — Editorial communications should be sent to the Rev. J. Barron, Ballywalter, Co. Down, or at 35 Rosemary Street, Belfast, not later than the 20th of the month.

—:o:—

"Sick of Party Politics."—Under this heading reference was made recently in "The Evening Dispatch" to a new organisation founded in Edinburgh known as "The new Political Fellowship" with one of its aims the welfare of all equally at heart without distinction. With "Evolution" as its motto it has no party policy to uphold, and as independent—as is a court of law. It claims that democracy has to learn that evolution, and not class, is the agent of progress. The one agreed basis is that evolution is a plan in which each one and his country have a part, and where co-operation is the keynote.

I tell thee
Orthodoxy is set up
When the mind and heart are in decay.

As the quiet pools of the wood
Lie hidden under a green mantle,
So is Life covered by the accumulation
Of autumnal thought.

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